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Of Christ or of Man?

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

Ask yourself the question: "Am I willing to reason or am I wanting to debate the topic of God's law?"

As we study the Scriptures, we need to have an open heart in reasoning with the Lord. Be sure that it's the Scriptures only that you use. I once received an e-mail from a friend that said to me:

"Smarter men than me have read these same passages and have developed a doctrine of grace. I'm with history and those smart men. If what you suggest is what Scripture says, it means that 2 millennia of Christian theologians have missed it. Martin Luther missed it, Augustine and Aquinas missed it, Wesley, Erasmus, Zwingli and Kant, Moody and Graham missed it. Is there something they missed?"

I can't help but think, these are mere men. Am I to hold them up equal to Scripture?

Think of all the brilliant rabbis who for one thousand years messed up their doctrines as well before the Lord came to correct it all in His first coming? Are we not capable of doing the same? Are we better than they are and somehow immune from this?

I have to confess that what my friend said gravely concerned me. He is holding to the traditions and teachings passed down by the fathers. This is the same thing that the Lord Himself preached against during His ministry on earth.

Mark 7:8-9

⁸ "You have let go of the *commands of God* and are holding on to the *traditions of men.*" ⁹ And he said to them: "You have a fine way of *setting aside the commands of God* in order to *observe your own traditions!*"

And then in verse 13:

Mark 7:13

Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.

Doesn't Scripture warn us of man's teachings during this time? The Scriptures state that people will gather teachers for themselves to cater to their itching ears.

2 Timothy 4:3

*For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their **itching ears** want to hear.*

Doesn't man repeatedly mess things up only to have God send us a prophet or Himself to correct us? Does man ever evolve to understand YHWH better in Scripture? Or do we fall away?

Doesn't Scripture warn of a falling away?

1 Timothy 4:1

*The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will **abandon** the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*

If you're a Protestant, you're admitting that from the 4th century to about 1500 AD that the church developed incorrect doctrine. Many take one step out of Catholicism only to leave one foot still in the doctrines and traditions of men, which were invented during that time. In doing this, we find ourselves prone to lean towards these doctrines and traditions more than the Scripture of what the first century Church wrote, taught, and practiced.

Have you ever read the prophecy of the New Covenant in the Old Testament? Let's look at it together. It's found in Jeremiah.

Jer. 31:33

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

So the law is to be in our heart. Biblically speaking, he couldn't do away with the law. If He did that, it wouldn't be in our heart.

Just before the Lord addressed the Pharisees and teachers of the law in Mark 7, he quoted from Isaiah 29:13.

Mark 7:5-7

*⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" ⁶ He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: " ***These people*** honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are but ***rules taught by men.***"*

Think about it. The prophecy of the New Covenant in Jeremiah says that the Law will be in our hearts.

But is it? Or are we following the example of the Pharisees and teachers of the law to where our hearts are far from Him as we focus on the teachings of men and set aside His commands?

How can the Holy Spirit even convict us of the Law in our hearts if our hearts reject the Law by way of the teachings of the church?

So test yourself. Whose example are you following? Are you a follower of Christ or of man?

We hope that you have enjoyed this teaching. And, as always, remember to continue to test everything.

Shalom

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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